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10 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE, INCORPORATED

CONFIDENTIAL

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12
13 [REDACTED] further advised that his organization
14 is loosely organized and that they have held no meetings
15 nor elected any officers. They have an implied agreement
16 among themselves to protect each other in the event of
17 an attack on any of them by the "Klan". In the event
18 of a racial riot he said they would do what they could to
19 stop it.

20
21 [REDACTED] described himself as a law-abiding,
22 God-fearing individual. He said he is "not anti white"
23 but he is "pro-Negro".

24 [REDACTED] described as follows:

25 Name: [REDACTED]

26 Race: [REDACTED]

27 Sex: [REDACTED]

28 Birth data: [REDACTED]

29 Height: [REDACTED]

30 Weight: [REDACTED]

31 Build: [REDACTED]

32 Hair: [REDACTED]

33 Eyes: [REDACTED]

34 Complexion: [REDACTED]

35 Marital status: [REDACTED]

36 Employment: [REDACTED]

37
38 This document contains neither recommendations
39 nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the
40 FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are
41 not to be distributed outside your agency.

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44 CONFIDENTIAL

F B I

Date: L-8-66

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via

AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, CHICAGO (157-572) (157-840)

SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RM (ORGANIZATION)

OO: NEW ORLEANS

RM

OO: NEW ORLEANS

Enclosed for the Bureau are 9 copies of a LRM containing a transcript of an interview of ERNEST THOMAS on "Hot Line", WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois, on May 23, 1966, by WESLEY SOUTH, Moderator.

"Hot Line" was taped on May 23, 1966 by IC b7C

- 5 - Bureau (157-2466) (Enc 9)
(1 - 157- [REDACTED])
4 - WFO (157-794) (Enc 2)
(2 - 157-801 [REDACTED])
4 - New Orleans (157-3290) (Enc 2)
(2 - 157- [REDACTED])
4 - Chicago
(1 - 157-350 POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE)
(1 - 157-413 RM)

b7C IST-116

REC 33

157-2466-132

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI, SEC, SER:

DEPT: ISD, CRD, [REDACTED], Com Rel. Serv.

WMP: csk

(17)

DATE FORW:

6/13/66

HOW FORW:

AM

BY:

RHS/C

FCC AT&T LHM 902 970

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

60940 JUN 17 1966

ENCLOSURE

CG 157-572
157-840

Two copies of the LHM are enclosed to WFO and two copies to New Orleans.

In addition, one copy each of the LHM has been disseminated locally at Chicago to the USA, Secret Service, and Region I, 113th INTC Group.

LEADS

NEW ORLEANS

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 1. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons (evidently nationwide) were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1 - 2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

2. Will also attempt to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's numerical figure of an "expected" influx of 10,000 to 15,000 Deacons into Chicago, where they will live in the city, within the next three months.

3. Will develop and furnish any information regarding opening and operation of Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) office in Chicago and the identity of persons involved.

THOMAS indicated that a DDJ office has been opened at 1230 South Pulaski, Chicago, and that somewhere around 455 persons have been recruited. New Orleans will attempt to verify or disprove this figure through informants and sources.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C. Will contact informants and sources to substantiate or disprove statements of THOMAS that about 2,000 Deacons were to picket the President's conference on civil rights on June 1-2, 1966 at Washington, D.C.

CG 157-572
157-840

CHICAGO

AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 1. Will continue investigation into the alleged organization and activities of a branch of the DDJ at Chicago.

2. Will contact confidential informants and sources and maintain contact with them to substantiate or disprove THOMAS's claim that 455 persons have been recruited into the DDJ at Chicago.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Chicago, Illinois

JUNE 8, 1966

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED
RACIAL MATTER (ORGANIZATION)

b7C

RACIAL MATTER

Ernest Thomas, "characterized as the local organizer for the Deacons For Defense and Justice (DDJ), and as Regional Vice-President and Northern Director for the DDJ, appeared on the program "Hot Line" on WVON radio, Chicago, Illinois on May 23, 1966. "Hot Line" is a radio program on which a controversial figure is usually interviewed. Telephone questions are solicited from listeners which are answered by the interviewee. A transcript of the program pertaining to THOMAS is as follows:

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-13-86 BY SP1/sk/jr

ENCLOSURE

157-2466-137

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9 ERNEST THOMAS, local organizer for the Deacons for
10 Defense and Justice, appeared on "Hot Line," May 23, 1966,
11 11:00 to 12:00 Midnight, on WVON Radio. WESLEY SOUTH was the
12 Moderator.
13
14

15 THOMAS

16 Well, I've been in and out of Chicago for the
17 last seven months. Presently it's around
18 455 actual members of it now. But the number
19 is going to grow quite large. Actually, we
20 got to open an office on the north and south
21 side now because we have such a great number
22 that is coming in we won't be able with the
23 space that is ...
24

25 Moderator

26 Listen, I want to ask you. I noticed you
27 opened on the west side first. Why did you
28 open over there and not on the south?
29

30 THOMAS

31 Well, you take the west siders for instance.
32 I think it is more or less of a place where
33 something is really about to explode. It is
34 just like being in with a load of dynamite with
35 the fuse lit, and we felt if we could come into
36 the west side and begin to relate to the man.
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the problems there and if he really wants to solve them he could go about doing it.

Hopefully that he will try to do something about the problem on the west side. Because, see, as long as you let the problem exist we can keep hollering about crime rates and all of this but if we really want to stop crime rates then we get some jobs for people because ain't nobody in the world. I wouldn't even recommend that a man stand out in front of the A&P or the Acme (phonetic) markets and look at a ham, and starve to death there. So the best thing for him to do would be to break the glass to get him some ham. Now so the structure wants to deal with this then they have to begin to give some jobs, make some jobs.

Moderator Will you also be a job seeking agency?

THOMAS Certainly. We will be trying to seek out employment for, as the structure say, qualified personnel. We will be trying to find them some qualified personnel.

Moderator What are the requirements to belong to the Deacons for Defense and Justice?

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7 THOMAS

Well, first thing you must be a Negro, you
must be 21 years of age, as the board say you
must have the character of becoming a Deacon.
Now that is the crucial question.

8
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10 Moderator

11
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13 THOMAS

14 Well, the board figure that you must feel as
15 though you have to make a decision whether yo
16 u stand for freedom or you are out here just
17 saying you represent freedom or you are fighting
18 for freedom. And this means whatever necessary
19 to gain freedom, this is what you are willing to
20 do.

21
22 Moderator

23 In other words, if a person who say he is for
24 freedom and is fighting for freedom unless he,
25 well, joins your group then you don't believe
26 that he really wants it. Where you would go
27 all the way possibly in order to get the freedom
28 that another person would take to the courts.

29
30 THOMAS

31 Well, what I mean. I hope it don't be misleading.
32 We're glad to see the other groups here.

33
34 Moderator

35 Well, I mean if they don't join you they are not,
36 from what you just said a moment ago, if I am
37 interpreting you correctly, then they are just

out here talking and they really don't mean
what they say.

Well, that's true. You see, because how can you
tell a man that you are going to be out here
after this freedom and are going to let him
your head and when he whip your head you are
coming back tomorrow and let him whip your head.

To us this does not seem like being a man. Now
we are after what is rightfully ours and upon
action for what is rightfully ours then I
expect to get it and we don't expect you to use
brute force against us to deny us this.

Ladies and gentlemen. I just got a note from
the control room that we had a little difficulty
before we went on the air and probably you
didn't hear who our guest is tonight. He is
Mr. ERNEST THOMAS, who is the Regional President
and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense
and Justice. They opened an office on the west
side three weeks ago. As I said, I want to
welcome him back. You know he was our guest,
I think it was back in October, wasn't it?

Yes, it was.

9 Moderator

So in case you were listening and wondering who
that was on the "Hot Line" his name is ERNEST
THOMAS and he's the top Deacon here. Is that
right?

10 THOMAS

That's true.

11 Moderator

12 Why do you say Deacon? Why not pastor?

13 THOMAS

14 It was a name that was kicked around and it was
beginning to look... All this was church
orientated and so the Deacons more or less
15 taking care of the business of the church and so
we said this is a good name because we're out
here protecting the civil rights workers so
that is the name we settled on, Deacons for
16 Defense and Justice.

17 Moderator

18 Is there any way of just recognizing a Deacon on
the street?

19 THOMAS

20 No, there is really no way because as you know
Deacons are black so, you see a lot of black
people.

21 Moderator

22 You want to see a million Deacons. What about
23 women? Can they join?

24 THOMAS

25 Yes, women can join too. We have a Deaconess
26 started. This is only in the Northern chapters,
27 though, that we have Deaconess.

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7 Moderator Will they be in the gun clubs too, rifle club? 1
8 THOMAS Well, certainly.
9
10 Moderator Talking about the requirements in order to be a
11 member of Deacons, and that's when I was handed
12 this note, and you were telling us the different
13 requirements. Did you finish? I cut you off
14
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21 THOMAS Well, I pretty well covered it.
22
23 Moderator What about a fellow who has been in prison?
24
25 THOMAS Well, a man being in prison doesn't...
26
27 Moderator He can still be a Deacon.
28
29 THOMAS He still can be a Deacon because man you have to
30 face this fact, and this is one thing I blame
31 society for. If a man has a criminal record
32 and if we're trying to reform the man certainly
33 he needs employment. And we find as a whole
34 your criminals are mostly unemployed and with no
35 hopes of getting a job because as soon as a man
36 looks at his record then he refuse him so
37 therefore you are telling him go back out and
38 stick somebody up or go back out and do the same
39 crime over again and let the state take care of
40 you. This is bad.
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8 Moderator

Do the Deacons intend to protect civil rights
workers here?

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11 THOMAS

12 Well, we intend to protect civil rights workers
13 to a point in the city of Chicago. If we're
14 called upon to help out then we will do this.

15 Moderator

16 Now what do you mean by that. That's rather
17 ambiguous. If we're called - say that they are
18 marching as they did down near Mayor DALEY's
19 home as they did last summer and they ask you
20 for protection. Now maybe, oh maybe 200 or
21 300 policemen there. Would they feel they needed
22 some protection from you? I mean just say
23 that someone said well here's a good chance for
24 us to have a confrontation. Let's call the
25 Deacons. What would you do in a case like this?

26
27
28 THOMAS

29 Well, we would come in more or less as witnesses
30 to the fact. We wouldn't participate openly in
31 the march but we would be there as spectators
32 and we would be looking out for police brutality
33 and John Bigot coming around and agitating them
34 whereas they have committed them to non-violence.
35 So that if the police would not handle John Bigot
36 we would take care of John Bigot for them.

6
7 Moderator

In other words, you put John Bigot in his place.

8 THOMAS

9 That's right.

10 Moderator

11 Would you be armed?

12 THOMAS

13 Well, I wouldn't feel that we would need to be.

14 Moderator

15 You wouldn't feel a need to be but would you be?

16 THOMAS

17 Well, no. If we didn't feel that we need to be

18 "armed..."

19 Moderator
20 If you felt that you need to be you would be
21 armed.
22

23 THOMAS
24 Oh, certainly.
25

26 Moderator
27 Even though the police ~~were~~ there.
28 THOMAS
29 Certainly. Because, you know, like one has to
30 protect himself and if you lack the confidence
31 in the police to protect you then you have to
32 protect yourself.
33

34 Moderator
35 And then what about if the Governor would send
36 in the National Guard and they declare martial
37 law?
38 THOMAS
39 Well, if they declared martial law then like I
40 say we would kind of go along with it like to a
41 point as long as the police is capable of carry-

42 ing out equal justice.
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6 Moderator

7 Now you say to a point. You indicate that there
8 might be a point that you would not go.

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10 THOMAS

11 As I plainly stated we are fighting for our
12 freedom and this means at all cost. Now if the
13 man don't want to give any ground then that is
14 what it is. It's a fight. But I am hoping
15 and I think that somewhere along the line that
16 the man will give some ground. But we intend to
17 have our freedom one way or the other. It's no
18 if/and about that.

19 Moderator

20 Now what do the Deacons, what do you think
21 about the Chicago Police Department?

22 THOMAS

23 Well, here on the off and on periods that I
24 have been in the city here could stand a lot,
25 could be changed in Chicago here with the
26 police department to make it function a little
27 better. For an instance, on the west side here
28 you see sometimes two white police. Well, a lot
29 of times you see two white policemen in the car
30 together, two blacks together, then you see,
31 at night I see detectives riding four whites in
32 the car. When you see things like this you know

that some black person is going to get abused
because when they riding like that that is what
they're cut there big. Ninety per cent of the time
And this is bad. And if the man really wanted
to make a change in Chicago then there should
be integration here. Black and white police
together. And this way the black one couldn't
abuse the white one and the white one couldn't
abuse the black one because after all he
belongs to the black race and he belongs to
the white race. This would seem to be a way of
balancing it out. But I've been told they have
done it last year, you know, during the riots
for a while but then they put them back
together. So I don't know what the situation
is going to be here. That would be one of my
suggestions to, as a matter of fact I have a
meeting with Superintendent WILSON on Thursday
evening. I am going to strongly suggest this
would be one of the best things really if they
intended to try to keep it coolsome, is to put
a little integration in the Chicago Police
Department.

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7 Moderator

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9 Did you say you will be meeting with
10 Superintendent WILSON? When?

11 THOMAS

12 Thursday evening.

13 Moderator

14 Thursday evening. Now you were talking about
15 riots. Do the Deacons believe there is a
16 possibility of a riot in Chicago this summer?

17 THOMAS

18 Yes. We are hoping strongly it doesn't be a
19 riot in the city of Chicago and if we can get
20 the cooperation from the people in the city of
21 Chicago we might be able to stop a riot.

22 Moderator

23 What do you call cooperation?

24 THOMAS

25 Well, from the various groups and from the
26 various agencies, from the police department,
27 from the city officials, you know. We have
28 gotten a pretty cold shoulder since we've been
29 in town from the power structure, and this in
30 itself says that it's something that is wrong
31 somewhere.

32 Moderator

33 Would you expect them to give you a welcoming
34 in open arms?

35 THOMAS

36 No, I am not looking for any welcome in open
37 arms but just a lot of things that have happened

since I've been in the city in and out here
they have indicated that at this particular
point they were more or less ignoring us and
wondering what's going on.

Just ignoring you. How did you happen to get
an interview or conference with Superintendent
WILSON? Did you request it?

The only thing I know that his secretary
called my secretary and

You had put in a request for it.

No.

He is requesting you to come to see him.

Right. It's some more groups that's going
to be there - supposed to be. So, I'll find
out really. Well, I said what's going to be the
topic and she said she didn't know, so I'll find
out when I get there.

Now, getting back to this riot. This is a very
sensitive issue here. What do you think will
be the major cause of a riot, if there is one?

Well, that would go into quite a few parts.

The frustration that the black people live in
the ghetto from day to day creates a certain

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7 threat of a riot. Then with unemployment, with
8 not being able to be a man of his house or head
9 of the household and then on top of all of that
10 police brutality. I think if a riot occurred it
11 will occur from police brutality.
12

13 Moderator
14
15 You think that will be the incident that will
16 trigger it off, as it did in Watts?
17

18 THOMAS
19 That is true.
20

21 Moderator
22 Do you think the same disastrous results
23 would...
24

25 THOMAS
26 Well, I think if a full scale riot would get
27 rolling in the city of Chicago it would be
28 much more difficult than the one in Watts.
29 I would say it would be three times as worse
30 as the LA riot for the location of the city, the
31 way Chicago is located. You have blacks on the
32 north side and the west side and the south side.
33 Now this would create, I think, a more worser
34 riot than the LA riot.
35

36 Moderator
37 Now there was a cross burning here over the
38 weekend out in, oh I think it was, Kenilworth.
39 Did the Deacons have any idea of that? (Inaudible)
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8 THOMAS

9 Yes, well, we haven't been out there yet but
10 we have contacted some people that live out
11 there and we have been gathering some
12 information. Of course, it never fooled us
13 for any minute that Chicago was any different
14 from Mississippi because you have more bigots
15 in Chicago than they have in Mississippi and
16 Louisiana put together. So this is a known
17 fact so we're not assuming that these are all the
18 good guys but we are not assuming that all of
19 them are bad guys either, but we know that
20 there are more Birchites and Klansmen,
21 Minutemen in the city of Chicago than they
22 could muster in Mississippi, Alabama and
23 Louisiana put together.

24 Moderator

25 What do you think of the white teenagers who
26 attacked a Negro last night? If you remember
27 this was in the news today.

28 THOMAS

29 Yes, I did. Well, you take a situation like this.
30 You know these things like this is good to
31 really point out to the people here in the city
32 that although they live as though they are in the
33 North and they expect to live in the different

surroundings they don't feel that they are
going to get attacked on the streets and some
of them are just misled, and this shows you
that whether you are involved in anything
as long as you are black you are in it. And
he could have been the mayor or the judge or
the prosecutor of Chicago, if he'd have been
black and he'd have been there at that
particular time he would have got his head
whipped. And this is the whole thing. You are
black and whether you are a bad black guy or a
good black guy, if you are at the wrong place
at the wrong time you get messed around.

Moderator

Do you think that slum conditions are as bad
in Chicago as the, well, Southern Christian
Leadership Conference has said? You know Dr.
KING has come up here as you have and established
a headquarters on the west side also.

THOMAS

Yes, well, after looking over the community I
would say that it is worse than what SCLC says
that it is because in some way or another I
think it's time to let the man know the real
the facts, and not sugar coating the words and

not telling him things are so good in the ghetto
and stuff like this because things are important
words. You ride down through some of those
streets there and see the rats how large they are
and you look at this and you say now here is a
city of this size, not a poor city and I'm
quite sure they could get rid of the rats.

I'd like to ask, when did you see your last rat?

Today.

You saw a rat today?

Today.

Was he a live rat?

A live rat. And as big as the squirrels we
kill down South.

Four legged one.

That's right.

Do you think that the Chicago Welfare Agency is
doing a good job?

Well, that would have to be determined, you
would have to determine that whether they are
doing a good job, that would be a pretty difficult
question. Now I think the welfare is doing the
job that the men, the structure, want them to do.

But it is not doing the job that needs to be done to help the people, you see. . There's a difference. A lot of people get confused even with the poverty program. It's serving the purpose that the man wants it to serve but it is not serving the purpose that we want it to "serve and that is to help black people.

Moderator

Getting back to a question just a previous one, you were talking about the slums and you were saying that it is not as good as people see it. Who is saying it is good? Everybody I've heard here in Chicago in the last few years I think everybody is saying it's bad.

THOMAS

Everyone's saying it is bad but yet we don't see any changes.

Moderator

But then nobody is saying it, then you will retract that saying that we are saying it is good living in the slums.

THOMAS

Why, sure. If I made that mistake I certainly retract that.

Moderator

What do you think about the unemployment situation here? What are you going to do about that?

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4 THOMAS

Well, it is pretty bad and somehow or another
we're going to have to meet, I am quite sure,
with the city officials here and the state
employment agency and the poverty program
people and see about getting some of these
people some jobs.

5
6 Moderator

7
8 How are you going to be able to help get jobs
9 and help people in their housing problems and
10 this very intricate education problem?

11 THOMAS

12 It's going to be quite a problem. That is
13 why I say we are going to need some help from
14 various groups to help put this together, put
15 a program together to where it will be effective,
16 and unless we get some help like I say it's
17 going to be very difficult to help people.

18 Now when we are not able to help people then
19 we are not going to have any further say if the
20 man don't listen to our plea and when we relate
21 to the ghetto to him what the ghetto is saying
22 and he don't act, then if something erupt then
23 don't come to us, because we are not going out
24 there to try to stop them people from throwing
25 no bricks.

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5 Moderator

Do you think they would come to you in the
first place?

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9 THOMAS

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11 Well, I think they would try to come to anybody
12
13 that perhaps could have a little influence on
14 the ghetto.

15 Moderator

16
17 From indications they might think that you are
18 trying to start it.

19 THOMAS

20
21 No. They may do that but that is up to
22 their own opinion, but we are not out to riot or
23 create a riot but we're here to let him know
24 that the situation exists and if he don't do
25 something about it then it is going to be a
26 riot. It's if/and about that and they don't
27 need to tell the man there ain't going to be no
28 riot it's going to be a cool summer because then
29 you get a lot of innocent people hurt when you
30 tell them that things are pretty good..we'll
31 make it over this summer without any incident.
32 And you have 50 or 20 white people coming through
33 the ghetto and getting trapped in something like
34 that and they might be some pretty decent white
35 people and they get messed around. And the same

thing if some blacks coming through that don't even know anything they could get messed around. So these are things I look at as the innocent person. Now if he was John Bigot coming into the community abusing someone in the community I wouldn't have any sympathy for him. You see what I mean. But you have to have sympathy for people.

22 Moderator

Listen, you know you were talking about what you intend to do and I understand you are in charge of all the branches that you will be setting up in the North.

23 THOMAS

That is true.

24 Moderator

What do you think of the civil rights conference which is to be held in Washington next week on June first and second which hopes to alleviate many of the problems of both North and South.

25 THOMAS

Well, I find it pretty hard to believe. I went to one of the pre-conferences in Philadelphia and after listening at the discussion there and participating in the discussion I could see plainly that you could have no civil rights

conferences a year and you are not going to
accomplish too much. Now, the Federal Government
knows the problem. You got FBI Agents and all
other kind of agents and then the city police
have intelligence agents and the man really
ought to know the problem better than I do. [REDACTED]
But now the point is does he intend to do some-
thing about it. Now, I don't need to sit
around and talk to him 40 or 45 minutes, two
hours, three hours and get up and leave and
nothing is done. That's just a waste of my
time and a waste of his time and I think it's
very bad. I don't think too much is going to
come out of it. As a matter of fact I am
supposed to go to Washington on the first and
second and picket it. We are supposed to bring
up about 2,000 Deacons.

Moderator In other words, you don't think too much about
 the conference.

THOMAS No. I don't think too much good for the black
 people will come out of the conference.

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9 Moderator

Listen. I've been listening to you now for
29 minutes and I want to ask you our question.
Do the Deacons intend to demonstrate in Atlanta,
this summer?

15 THOMAS

16
17 Well, we really don't intend to demonstrate.
18 I think demonstrations are played out just [redacted]
19 about and I think this is one approach we have
20 used to the fullest. I find when you go out
21 in the street demonstrating the man says he has
22 a Constitutional right to picket, you have a
23 lawful right to demonstrate and then he comes
24 around and locks you up, and you pay thousands of
25 dollars in court fees and then after paying all
26 that you cut it loose, you know. We don't have
27 any intention of spending no great fortune on no
28 demonstration, the man arrests you and all the
29 so I don't see that we would be in the streets
30 too much demonstrating because this does not
31 get us too far. We get the short end of the
32 stick every time.

33 Moderator

34 If you should have any trouble next summer or
35 while you are here will the Deacons ask for help
36 from other chapters across the United States, if
37 you need it here?

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8 THOMAS

9 Yes, well we feel as though we need a little
10 help in the city of Chicago now and we have
11 called in and in the next two months, to
12 three months, there will be approximately
13 ten to fifteen thousand outside Deacons coming
14 in to the city of Chicago to try and help..
15
16

17 Moderator

18 How many?

19 THOMAS

20 Ten to fifteen thousand.

21 Moderator

22 Ten to fifteen thousand Deacons. They going
23 to live here?

24 THOMAS

25 They'll live in the city.

26 Moderator

27 They will live in the city.

28 THOMAS

29 That's right.

30 Moderator

31 So we can expect an influx of over to
32 fifteen thousand Deacons.

33 THOMAS

34 Over the next three months.

35 Moderator

36 Over the next three months.

37 Ladies and gentlemen, our guest tonight is
38 ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice-Pres. Midwest and
39 Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense
40 and Justice, which opened its office on the west
41 side here three weeks ago. If you have a
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question or comment we invite you to give us a call here on the Hot Line. Our telephone number is 847-2602.

(Commercial)

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen. Our guest tonight ERNEST THOMAS, Regional Vice President and Northern Director of the Deacons for Defense and Justice. Our telephone number 847-2602, and from all indications a lot of people are going to have something they want to talk with you, Mr. THOMAS. I'd like to ask you two or three other questions before we go to the telephone and that is - you know that we have a lot of young people here in Chicago. They have associated themselves in what we call gangs, west side gangs, east side, south side, north side. You name it and they've got gangs. Will there be a youth program with the Deacons? Yes, we are hoping strongly that we can get a pretty decent youth program.

THOMAS

Moderator You going to draw them from this group here?

THOMAS

Pardon?

5
6 Moderator Do you intend to draw the youth from the gangs?
7
8 THOMAS Any, whether he is a gang youth or a youth we
9 want to try to work with them some type of way
10 to keep them primarily in something, in an
11 active way, and we hope to try and form softball
12 leagues all over the city and maybe a little
13 participation in that baseball league and what
14 happens, you know.
15
16

17 Moderator Well, one other question. What do you think
18 about the peace demonstrations? We've been
19 having some peace demonstrations against our
20 involvement in Viet Nam for a few months now.

21 THOMAS Well, I've been more or less pushed into several
22 of them. I didn't understand them until I was
23 in them. I ended up the police said go this
24 way, go this way and I ended up there. But
25 what's puzzling me is a many whites out
26 there talking about end the war in Viet Nam and
27 they are the ones that mostly prospers from
28 whatever the U.S....
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31 Moderator But you didn't say these individual whites who are
32 asking; I am thinking about the young man who is
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going to be on my show tomorrow night,

EARL SILBAR. Now he is very much against the profit that's in the...

THOMAS

Well, that's true. But what I am say is I don't see Negroes on a mass scale out there talking about the war in Viet Nam. I think this is really what need to be that blacks say well why should I go to Viet Nam.

Moderator

Oh, you think they should be out on the peace move, or are you?

THOMAS

I'm saying that Afro-Americans should be out there. I'm not so much concerned with whether they are integrated out there but I'm saying that because there is a different cut of the pie when although some the ones that are protesting now the war in Viet Nam white's may eventually end up working on the space ship that goes to the moon or somewhere. But, I'm speaking of black people that are dying and that have died in every war in this country and now when we come back home we cannot get our rightful slice of the pie. And every group,

every other minority group has gotten a slice of the pie. This is why I am saying black people are going to have to say well why don't you go fight your battle until you give me my rightful share of the pie. See, because I believe in this law in the sea. You know, the ship is sunken and damaged and you tow it in you get so much of the cargo. So I think if we help you exploit the people then we should have a rightful cut of the pie.

Moderator One other question. What do you think of the political structure here in Chicago?

THOMAS Well, from all indications it is a pretty bad thing.

In what respect?

THOMAS Well, in all respects,

Such as -

THOMAS Well, all these problems exist, unemployment; like I say the fuse is lit to blow up all this is because X number of things. Welfare is not giving the welfare recipient enough money, they are taking the man and tearing him away from his

family and support his wife; and kids and run
him out of the house so it is just a whole lot
of things that cause this and I think the
political structure mostly everything in the
city of Chicago is political tied anyway.

Moderator

Okay. Ladies and gentlemen, our guest ERNEST [REDACTED]
THOMAS, our telephone number 847-2602. We're
going to stop here for a short message.

(Commercial)

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9 Moderator

Well, we are back with you ladies and gentlemen.
WESLEY SOUTH is your host. Our guest ERNEST
THOMAS and our telephone number 847-2602.
Let's go and see what some of our listeners
have to ask you.
This is the Hot Line.

18 First Speaker

Hello Mr. SOUTH.

19 Moderator

Yes.

20 First Speaker

This is EARL YOUNG. I haven't caught all of
your program but I did catch a portion of it.
for your interview with the Deacons and I
would like to say with all due respect to the
Deacons and any constructive approach they
may have to solving the situations and many
problems that we are having in Chicago I do
hope that if they have the chance to meet with
city officials that they will make it clear
that they do not represent the Negro population
as a whole because judging from the appearance
that they seem to be giving on the program I
for one would not want to be represented by them.
Thank you.

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6 Moderator Thank you for your call.
7
8 THOMAS Thank you sir.
9
10 Moderator This is the Hot Line.
11
12 Second Speaker Hello.
13
14 Moderator Yes, may we have your question.
15
16 Second Speaker Mr. THOMAS, did I hear you say that you are
17
18 expecting from ten to fifteen thousand Deacons
19
20 in the city of Chicago very shortly.
21
22 THOMAS Yes, in the next three months.
23
24 Second Speaker How are they going to live? Will they be
25
26 working on jobs or will they bring money
27
28 enough to support themselves?
29
30 THOMAS Well, the organization will worry about that.
31
32 Second Speaker You say that you are not going to participate
33
34 in demonstrations and you are not going to
35 offer any...
36
37 THOMAS Now I said. Wait a minute. I think you
38
39 misinterpreted me. I said we as an organization
40
41 was not too concerned about demonstrating in
42
43 the streets.
44
45 Second Speaker Yes, and I inferred from your organization
46
47 that you are not going to offer any armed

resistance to the police, so I would like to
know what you would describe as the exact
function of the Deacons in Chicago.

THOMAS Well, we would probably be pretty busy telling
a man the problems, and I think by telling him
the problem and pointing to the problem and
the street groups can more or less demonstrate
around them if they like.

Second Speaker I would like to ask you one more question.
Will the Deacons participate in any political
campaigns while they are here?

THOMAS Sure we will participate in political
campaigns while we are here.

Second Speaker Here is one more thing. This is the last
question. What sort of difficulties you had
in recruiting people from all over Chicago?

THOMAS Well, as I say we have been in progress 135
now and I consider that in that time we have
had to work with Chicago and this has been
successful.

Second Speaker That is since you had your office open for
three weeks.

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5 THOMAS No. We have been in the city of Chicago for
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12 Second Speaker the last seven months but I've been off and
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14 Moderator on in the city.
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18 THOMAS Okay, well, thank you very much.
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20 Moderator Thanks for calling.
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24 Third Speaker Where is your office located?
25
26 Moderator 1230 South Pulaski.
27
28
29
30 Third Speaker Let's get back to the telephone.
31
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33
34 Third Speaker This is the Hot line.
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36 Moderator Hello. Mr. THOMAS please?
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38 Moderator Go right ahead.
39
40 Third Speaker Mr. THOMAS, I understand you to say that you
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51 THOMAS are going to point up the problems to the man.
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THOMAS Because I'll tell you why. Because as I say
we're not one of the nonviolent groups and we
don't think that we are not in the city to get
hurt or beat.

Third Speaker To incite a riot?

THOMAS Pardon?

Third Speaker You here to incite a riot?

THOMAS If a riot occurs it will occur on its own.
We are not here to incite a riot but then also
we are not intending to be intimidated and
beat by anyone and if you know the gentleman
that's running out on the south side that
HERBERT (phonetic), the man that came in his
office and shot him up. Now we don't intend
to have that either.

Third Speaker But that was not the man. That was the
colored man.

THOMAS The colored man.

Third Speaker Yes, he was shot by a Negro.

THOMAS Well, you know you white people can put Negroes
up to do things too. We have some black people
with black skin that's white, you know. And
when I see that happen that's a weak-minded
black man.

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6 Third Speaker Yes, well another thing you spoke of the
7 slums and the rats. Who creates the slums?

9 THOMAS Who creates the slums?

11 Third Speaker Yes.

13 THOMAS The people.

15 Third Speaker The people, right. So if the Negroes create
16 their own slums...

19 THOMAS No. When they move into an area that's 35 to 40 years old, they never moved into a ghetto or a large community of 40 or 50 blocks of new housing like white development goes up.

27 Moderator You don't mean that to be true in Chicago.
28 You're talking about in some areas.

31 THOMAS In some areas of Chicago, that is right.
32 In the ghettos is what I'm speaking of.

34 Third Speaker Negroes have moved in Chicago into brand new houses and have created slums right in their present house. They move into old housing that has been kept clean in spite of the age and dirty it. They steal light bulbs out of their own community, they write on the walls. Do we blame the white man for this?

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6 THOMAS Well, you see where the responsibility comes
7
8 is if the man don't make enough money...
9
10 Third Speaker Shouldn't this be taken up with the Negro?
11
12 THOMAS Pardon?
13
14 Third Speaker If they are creating their own problems.
15
16 THOMAS Well, do you want me to answer it or I'll
17
18 listen to you?
19
20 Third Speaker I want you to answer it.
21
22 THOMAS Well, now you see when a man do not have a
23
24 decent job, because the only reason he won't
25
26 have a decent job is that he is black. And
27
28 all of this perpetuate the whole situation to
29
30 make it be like it is. Here a man, he is
31
32 worried how he is going to make another buck
33
34 and you worried about whether you going to
35
36 paint your house this week or next week or what
37
38 color you going to change it. And he
39
40 even see where he can get any point, you see.
41
42 And these are the problems that should create
43
44 a slum. Then you bring in all the slum
45
46 buildings that are supposed to really be worn
47
48 down and the city inspectors come by and they

check the building and they slip him a buck
and they go head on. The building go on and
the next minute it is a fire trap and it kills
fifteen or twenty kids in the buildings.

Third Speaker Well, what about the housing that the
Negroes buy and they in turn rent to the
Negroes and the Negroes go about destroying
the properties that they are renting from
Negroes. Do they blame the white man for that?

THOMAS Well, I observe by what you are saying I'm
quite sure you are caucasian.

Third Speaker Oh, I'm quite black.

THOMAS Well, you are caucasian minded, so when I say
that I don't mean the pigments in your skin.
We have a lot of black people in more or less
white/black and they don't ... return on
problems of their own race. And I am quite
sure you fall into this category that you don't
understand your own fellow (inaudible).

Third Speaker I think we're using black as an excuse.

THOMAS Well, if you show me any black man in America or
black woman in America that is free then I'll
give up.

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7 Third Speaker Well, being free has nothing to do with being
8 clean.
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10 THOMAS Whether you got two million dollars or two
11 hundred million dollars. A black man with
12 two hundred million dollars is not free.
13
14 Pardon?
15
16 Third Speaker Being free has nothing to do with being clean.
17
18 THOMAS Sure it does. You think the troops in Viet
19 Nam is clean?
20
21 Third Speaker Well, we're not speaking of Viet Nam.
22
23 THOMAS No, but I'm saying as you think they're
24 clean. (inaudible).
25
26 Third Speaker We're not speaking of Viet Nam because the
27 Deacons did not go to Viet Nam they came to
28 Chicago.
29
30 THOMAS We have some in Viet Nam too. For your
31 information.
32
33 Third Speaker Well, yes, I heard that about Viet Nam. But
34 what I'm saying the problem here is Chicago
35 and what we want to do is make the living
36 conditions in Chicago...
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THOMAS Well, we are striving for the conditions of the whole U.S. We are not just concerned just with Chicago. I want to be able to go to New York, anywhere else. We are not just concerned with just Chicago because I have some sixty seventy chapters and I am concerned about what is going on in all these seventy different places. And

"this is my concern. Now your concern might be just right here in Chicago, but mine's not.

Third Speaker Well, since you are helping Chicago don't you think part of the program could be planned toward helping the black man help himself?

THOMAS That's true.

Third Speaker I mean like not only fighting for your rights...

THOMAS And one of those ways is to find himself and to be a man. And we cannot find ourselves and be a man by letting you whip or hit the head.

Third Speaker Now everybody isn't whipped side the head.

THOMAS Well, you whip one way or the other or you whip side the head or you whip randomly. Either way you whipped.

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12 Third Speaker So what do we do? Do we get through physical
13 violence or do we try to alleviate the problems
14 that create the situation?

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23 THOMAS Well, when you go to try to deal with the
24 problem that creates the situation then that
25 brings on violence because the man never wants
26 to give any ground. You understand? Why, you
27 think you never seen the civil rights people
28 get their heads whipped down South?

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30
31
32 Third Speaker Oh, yes...

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35 THOMAS You never seen them get arrested in Chicago?
36 Pardon?

37
38
39 Third Speaker I've never been in the South but they have had
40 heads whipped in other areas other than the
41 South.

42
43 THOMAS Right. Have you heard of police brutality in
44 Chicago?

45
46
47 Third Speaker Yes, there's police brutality in Chicago but
48 what I'm speaking of is the fact that there
49 are more areas to work than just the violence.

50
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52 Moderator So you would bypass the courts and we'll take
53 care of this, is this what the Deacons are
54 saying?

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5 THOMAS No. We are not saying that, but I think the
6
7 lady got mixed up for when we as an organization
8 was not intending to spend a fortune going
9 through the courts when the one Federal law
10 says you have the right to picket to lawful
11 assembly and all this and then the city
12 official comes in and arrests you and you go
13 through courts, city courts...
14
15 Moderator You say you are not going to demonstrate.
16 THOMAS No, we are not going to get off like that.
17
18 Moderator We have to cut you off here man. We have a
19 couple commercials coming up. Thank you for
20 calling. Good night.
21
22 Our telephone number 847-2802.
23
24 (Commercial)
25
26 Moderator This is the Hot Line.
27
28 Fourth Speaker Yes, Mr. SOUZE. What is your name, Mr. THOMAS?
29
30 Moderator Yes, ERNEST THOMAS.
31
32 Fourth Speaker Is he on? Well, Mr. THOMAS.
33
34 THOMAS Yes sir.
35
36 Fourth Speaker You said that you were asked to come here.
37
38 Would you mind explaining who asked you to
39 come here?
40

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7 THOMAS No, I don't think it is necessary to answer
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11 Fourth Speaker It is none of my business.
12
13 THOMAS Pardon?
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15 Fourth Speaker You say you don't think it is none of my
16
17 business?
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19 THOMAS I say I don't think it is necessary for me
20
21 to answer that.
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23 Fourth Speaker I don't see why.
24
25 Moderator This man lives here. He is a Negro you come
26
27 here to help him.
28
29 Fourth Speaker Come here to help you do what.
30
31 Moderator Sir, he has come here to help you. I would
32
33 say too I would say it's your business to know.
34
35 Fourth Speaker I am a Negro.
36
37 Moderator That's what I say.
38
39 Fourth Speaker Yes, and that's why I ask you.
40
41 Moderator I know the NAACP say they didn't ask you.
42
43 The Urban League say they didn't ask you.
44
45 THOMAS I don't mean established groups much like that.
46
47 These are various people and from small groups.
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1 Moderator I know churches have said they didn't ask you
2 to come in.
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4 THOMAS Yes, like I say we are not going to disclose
5 who invited us in.
6
7 Moderator Is there any reason? I mean is this a secret
8 organization?
9
10 THOMAS Not an organization. We got our signs up.
11
12 We're here. But I'm speaking of who invited
13 us. And this have a tendency to get the people
14 that invited us into a bind because they do
15 work for the power structure.
16
17 Moderator You would say that somebody invited you in.
18
19 THOMAS A lot of people, yes.
20
21 Fourth Speaker Would you explain who the lot of people are.
22
23 Can't you give me some...
24
25 THOMAS I thought I explained this to you. Say if you
26 worked for the mayor and you know who was on there
27 would you want me to give that name out?
28
29 Fourth Speaker Listen, we have a lot of groups here. In other
30 words we have got too many groups here.
31
32 THOMAS No, we never have too many because we haven't
33 solved the problem. Meantime whether we've got
34 too many...
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Fourth Speaker Will you listen to me. You know you say it again that you was going to bring in about fifteen thousand Deacons. Now you know you ain't got no fifteen thousand Deacons. There ain't an organization among the Negroes today got fifteen thousand Negroes in it.

THOMAS Wait three months and call me back and say
that.

Fourth Speaker, Wait three months. Look. I've been here in Chicago long before you were born.

THOMAS Well, we're not arguing that point.

Fourth Speaker. And you say you've been here six months.

THOMAS Yes, six to seven months off and on.

Fourth Speaker Now you don't know what's going on in Chicago
no more than what somebody tell you.

THOMAS Well, I don't see... In other words you're saying I can't see the problem.

Fourth Speaker Wait a minute. You going to hear me now. We do not want no pistol packing Deacons here because we get along without a riot and you know you can't accomplish nothing in no boisterous way and I don't like your attitude. You spoke about the man looking in the store at the gun. Don't you know that's a match for a riot? Didn't you know that?

5 THOMAS Pardon?

6 Fourth Speaker Huh?

7 Moderator He said don't you know that your statement
8 of the hungry man looking at a ham in the store
9 is a match for a riot.

10 THOMAS Well then I can't help that.

11 Fourth Speaker Yes you can help that by not speaking and
12 things. And here's another thing I want to
13 tell you. Any time the groups get together like
14 that you've been...you see we are American
15 citizens.

16 THOMAS That's right.

17 Fourth Speaker Don't deal just on black, black and white,
18 black and white. Don't you know what you're
19 doing? You just building up more hatred
20 between the two races.

21 THOMAS I'm not striving for laws. We're striving for
22 respect for one another.

23 Fourth Speaker We don't want no pistol packing Deacons here.

24 THOMAS Well, we didn't say we was pistol packing.

25 Fourth Speaker I'm a Negro myself, and I'm going to tell you
26 so far as I'm concerned you should never have
27 come here.

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5 THOMAS Well, you are entitled to your opinion.
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7 Fourth Speaker Then you was talking about the police department
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18 THOMAS Well, you are entitled to your opinion.
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20 Fourth Speaker Then you was talking about the police department
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24 THOMAS Well, you are entitled to your opinion.
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28 Fourth Speaker Then you was talking about the police department
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30 Moderator I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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34 THOMAS I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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38 Fourth Speaker I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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40 Moderator I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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43 THOMAS I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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46 Moderator I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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48 Fourth Speaker I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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50 Moderator I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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53 Fifth Speaker I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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55 Moderator I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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57 Fifth Speaker I've been here forty some odd years and don't
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3 Moderator Who is this - did you say I told you to call?
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6 Fifth Speaker Yes, my name is Mr. O'FERRON.
7
8 Moderator Well, he said I told him to call; so right ahead.
9
10 Fifth Speaker Yes, am I talking with Mr. THOMAS?
11
12 THOMAS Yes you are.
13
14 Fifth Speaker Well, here's what I would like to bring up.
15 I've been listening to your program very long
16 here and I want to... You know, I'm not
17 condemning you for being here and I'm not
18 condemning you, but I want to say some of the
19 things that's going on that you're speaking of
20 really, actually happening here. I am... I'm
21 in a slum which you called and I see a lot of
22 things and one way or the other it looks like
23 its something going to be happening which
24 is going to be right.
25
26 THOMAS That's true.
27
28 Fifth Speaker Far as the explosion. I mean, will they know
29 what goes on here, see. A lot of them come back
30 from suburbs and what have you have come around.
31 They'll be looking for prostitutes and all
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thing and another. And it has been called to the police department's attention and everything, and nothing's really been done about it. And so what else can you do about it? I would really like for some of the listeners to give their opinion.

Moderator Would you and I know each other, sir? I'm trying to rack my brain for someone by the name of OVERTON.

Fifth Speaker Yes, you do.

Moderator Okay. Thanks for calling.

Our telephone number 847-2662.

(Commercial)

This is the Hot Line.

Sixth Speaker I would like to address a remark or two to Mr. THOMAS. Mr. THOMAS, I'm white and I've been struggling for integration and against segregation and for civil rights for probably more than you have years. In other words before you were born, and I just wonder why it is you want to exclude white people from your organization.

THOMAS You say why?

Moderator Yes, why.

THOMAS Well, for the simple reason...

Sixth Speaker That I've earned it. You know I've gone through a lot in the last 100 years or so. Ever since the days of the Svarteborg (phonetic) case. You'll defend white civil rights workers, won't you?

THOMAS Sure, certainly.

Sixth Speaker Well, why don't you let them participate in your organization too?

THOMAS Wait a minute. It's just like the Jews having a Jewish organization that they only let Jews in and just like the White Citizens Council only let white people in; the John Birchers only let white people in. I could name you so many groups that don't have anything but whites...

Sixth Speaker You are mistaken about most of those organizations because most organizations have dropped their bars.

THOMAS I don't know of any blacks for the Ku Klux Klan or the Minutemen or the Patriotes.

Mcderator Are you comparing yourself to the Ku Klux Klan?

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THOMAS

No. It's just being a black organization, and there's nothing wrong with being a black organization.

Sixth Speaker

No, but you say that the purpose of your organization is to defend the rights of the Negro, to work for his dignity. I approve of these aims, generally speaking, although I don't know about the pistol packing part. But I suppose a white person was just as much interested as you in defending the dignity and the rights of the Negro people. Why should he be barred from a group like that?

Moderator

And before you answer I would like to ask you this question. A moment ago you said to a woman that the pigmentation of her skin may have been... that she was white on the inside but her skin was dark. What about a person being...

THOMAS

White and dark inside?

Moderator

Yes.

THOMAS

Well, that's true. I accept this fact. But also...

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4
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6 Sixth Speaker You know how many white civil rights workers
7 have been killed in the South?
8
9
10 THOMAS Pardon?
11
12 Sixth Speaker You know how many whites have been killed in the
13 South.
14
15
16 THOMAS True.
17
18 Sixth Speaker People who have gone in there fighting against
19 segregation and for civil rights.
20
21 THOMAS And we've protected more white civil rights
22 workers than we did black civil rights.
23
24 workers, but anyone that ever was down South
25 and ran across any of the Dragons or happen to
26 know me personally know that I'm a pretty nice
27 fellow to meet but when we hold our membership
28 this is what it is. We have a lot of whites
29
30 that we work with.
31
32
33 Sixth Speaker But when you treat white civil rights workers
34 and people who are on your side whose skin happen
35 to be white, when you treat them as if they're
36 the enemy and they can't belong to your organization
37 than you're giving a lot of fuel to the
38 fire them....
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Copies of this Memo have been disseminated
locally at Chicago, Illinois to the United States Attorney,
Secret Service, and to Region I, 113th INTL Group.

APPENDIX

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED, aka
DEACONS FOR DEFENSE AND JUSTICE,
INCORPORATED

The Articles of Incorporation of the Deacons of Defense and Justice (DDJ) as on file with the Secretary of State, for the State of Louisiana, reflects that the Deacons of Defense and Justice, Incorporated is a Louisiana corporation domiciled at Jonesboro, Louisiana. The location and business office address of its registered office shall be Amos Service Station (rear), Beach Spring Road, Drawer B, Jonesboro, Louisiana.

"This corporation is organized for the following purposes and to carry on the following purposes:

To instruct, train, "teach and educate citizens of the United States and especially minority groups in the fundamental principals of the republican form of government and our democratic way of life; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the provisions of the constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Louisiana, as well as the constitution and laws of any other State wherein this corporation may operate; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the use, value and purpose of the ballot and the right to vote; to instruct, teach, train and educate said persons as to the duties and responsibilities of good citizenship relative to the obligation and duties of the community to the citizen; To further instruct, teach, train and educate said persons in the values of economic security and in the effective use of their spending power; to inspire in said persons a sense of responsibility and to develop leadership. This corporation has for its further purpose, and is dedicated to, the defense of the civil rights, property rights and personal rights of said people and will defend said rights by all and will honorable and legal means to the end that justice may be obtained. This corporation may establish chapters and conduct its business at any place in this State and elsewhere as permitted by law."

APPENDIX

3
F B I

Date: 6/22/68

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(Type in plaintext or code)

ATTACHMENT

(Priority) ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISETO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-8010)
SUBJECT: PROTECTION TO PROTECT THE SHOOTING
OF JAMES H. MCKENREY
LHMRe New Orleans teletype to Director and
Jackson dated 6/22/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are [redacted] (12) copies of LHM captioned as above sufficient for dissemination; with five (5) copies for the Jackson Division.

Copies of LHM disseminated to Secret Service and FOB, New Orleans.

b1

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]

JUN 23 1968

Date Rec'd.

How Rec'd.

By

FBI - NEW ORLEANS (Enc. 1) (RM)
FBI - Jackson (Enc. 2) (Enc. 3)
FBI - New Orleans157-36127
NOT RECORDED

JUN 23 1968

C. /serl
(1)CLASS. & EXT. BY SAC/SPK 6-22-68
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2, 6, 2, 12
DATE OF REVIEW 6-22-68

EX-1

Approved:

Special Agent in Charge

Section X-111

Per

JUL 12 1966 SPK



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
June 22, 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST THE
SHOOTING OF JAMES H. MEREDITH

[REDACTED]

b1

[REDACTED]

(C)

(C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

SP/sgc/jr 7-23-80
REVIEW - JULY 11, 1-2-4-2-2
DATE OF REVIEW 6-22-86

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned
to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed
outside your agency

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXPOSURE

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1966

FBI BALTO

TELETYPE

4:45 4-05 PM EDST URGENT 7-2-66 PTK
TO DIRECTOR AND NEW ORLEANS AND JACKSON
FROM BALTIMORE 157-1008

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE (DDJ) RX.

b7D CONFIRMED TODAY THAT ERNEST THOMAS IS IN BA AND
DRIVING CHRYSLER SARATOGA, IA. LICENSE [REDACTED] (FIRST
THREE DIGITS ONLY). THOMAS ACCCOMPANIED BY CHARLES SIMMS WHO
IS DRIVING TAN OLDSMOBILE NINETY EIGHT, WITH MISS. LICENSE
[REDACTED] THEY ARE STAYING AT MT.

ROYAL HOTEL, BA.

BA FILES REFLECT SIMMS PRESIDENT OF BOGALUSA CHAPTER
DDJ.

ADVISE IF THOMAS OWNS SUCH AN AUTOMOBILE AND FURNISH
COMPLETE NUMBER. JACKSON CONFIRM MISS. LICENSE FOR SIMMS. FURNISH
ALL PERTINENT INFO INCLUDING DESCRIPTIVE DATA RE SIMMS. ADVISE
OF OTHER MEMBERS OF DDJ WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING THOMAS AND SIMMS
AND FURNISH ALL DETAILS RE SUCH PERSONS.

CONTACT ALL LOGICAL SOURCES AND DETERMINE PURPOSE OF P.D.P.J.
15 JUL 6 1966
MEMBERS IN BALTIMORE.

SUTEL.

END

JPM

5 JUL 12 1966
FBI WASH DC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-86 BY SP/ [Signature]

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 7-2-66

Information is attached
being furnished to the Department.

RHH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-00 BY SP-2637

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
JUL 2 1965

14. Taken
by [redacted]
Date [redacted]
Time [redacted]
Location [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
CONFIDENTIAL

FBI NEW ORLS OTHERWISE

12-16 PM CST URGENT 7-1-66 WSW

10 DIRECTOR AND BALTIMORE

11 FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-3290

12 REACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DDJ/RM

13 CLASS. & EXT. BY [redacted] 7-1-66
REASON - FSCM 11, T-2, 4-2
14 DATE OF REVIEW 7-1-66

Miss Gandy

15 [redacted]

16 [redacted]

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PAGE THREE

34
35 THOMAS REPORTEDLY ATTENDING NATIONAL CORE CONVENTION
36 BALTIMORE AT PRESENT TIME. CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN
37
38 ON HANDLEING THE ABOE INFORMATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE
39 SOURCE.

40 END AND ACK PLS
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42 FBI WASH DC
43
44 REM

45 FBI BALTO

46 FBI DISC

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 157-1561

CONFIDENTIAL X

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(c)

that there will be
a rally 12/26/65 at the Mount Morris Presbyterian Church for
BILL/EPTON. One of the sponsoring groups is the Harlem Friends
of the Deacons. The purpose of the rally is to try to get
BILL EPTON out of jail and to raise money for him.

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL X

NY 157-1561

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

POLYZYCHIA LOMMELI

On 3/9/66, an attempt was made to pretext the FDDJ telephone number 749-8745, at which time it was determined that the number had been disconnected.

on 4/1/66.

reflect that on 6/14/65, RICQUE LE SEUR was listed as Treasurer, Staten Island Chapter, CORE. The record further reflects that LE SEUR is assistant to CHARLES SIRS of the Deacons, and that LE SEUR has been making use of the Deacons' funds and not advancing the cause of the group.

On 4/6/66, a pretext telephone call to 666-0787, the number listed on a pamphlet issued by the Harlem Committee for the Defense of Free Speech, was answered by an unidentified male who stated that neither he nor any of the other persons in the office know who to contact to join the Deacons. In fact, he stated he wished he did because he would join. He stated he does not believe there is such an organization in New York at the present time. (The number 666-0787 is listed to the Harlem Unemployment Center, 139 West 125th St.)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7C

On 4/22/66, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that he has no knowledge of any planned activities of the DDJ in the Pennsylvania, New Jersey or New York areas.

[REDACTED]

He stated that [REDACTED] is in no way associated with the DDJ and has never expressed an interest in becoming affiliated with the organization. Although [REDACTED] did not elaborate, he expressed the feeling that [REDACTED], in his opinion, is not the type of individual he would want in the DDJ. [REDACTED] advised that EARNIE THOMAS, Vice President of the Jonesboro, Louisiana, DDJ, is presently in Jonesboro, Louisiana, and has not indicated that he has any knowledge of planned activities of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New York, or New Jersey. [REDACTED] emphatically stated that if any such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them. He advised that he, himself, has no desire to become active in that area, and has heard no [REDACTED] leaders of the DDJ express a desire to do so.

On 5/4/66, [REDACTED] Branch Office of the Governor's Office of Urban Affairs, Room 209, 271 West 125th St., advised that the office, which they currently occupy, was empty when they moved in approximately the middle of April, 1966.

On 5/5/66, [REDACTED] 271 West 125th St., NYC, advised that Room 209 was sublet by a lawyer, (FNU) [REDACTED], to an unknown male whose name and nature of business [REDACTED] could not recall. He stated that he did recall a rent check from the "Friends of Deacons for Justice" or a similar name. He advised he would contact other persons more familiar with the former tenant in an effort to determine the individual's identity and nature of business.

[REDACTED] b1
[REDACTED] there is no known current activity of the DDJ in the NYC area at the present time. Nothing has been heard recently about this group in Harlem or NYC. [REDACTED] b7C

~~X~~

NY 157-1561

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7C
b7D

The following informants, familiar with racial activities in the NYC area, contacted during the month of May, 1966, and could supply no additional information concerning the FDDJ, are identified as follows:



b1

It should be noted that various names have been set forth for this organization in accordance with literature and informant reports received by the NYO. However, there is a close relationship existing between the captioned organization and the DDJ to the extent that the names have, on occasion, been used interchangeably. Many of the individuals, mentioned herein as being associated with the captioned organization, have also been or are affiliated with other organizations and are now or have been subjects of Bureau cases. The informants, mentioned herein, with the exception of those so indicated, have provided reliable information in the past.

This case was opened to investigate the captioned organization to determine its organizational structure, officers, members and purposes. This case is being closed administratively for the following reasons:

(1) In view of the information previously set forth which indicates that the office, which at one time was rented by [REDACTED] under the organization's name, has since [REDACTED] b7C
been vacated.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NY 157-1561

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

9
10 (2) The statement made by [REDACTED] on 4/24/66 b7C
11 indicating that he has no knowledge of any planned activities b7I
12 of the DDJ in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, or New York, and that
13 if such plans did exist, he would certainly be aware of them.

14 (3) [REDACTED] who has reported on the captioned (C) b1
15 organization, indicated that there is no known current activity b1
16 in the Harlem or NYC area.

17 (4) Other sources, who are familiar with racial
18 activities in the NYC area, were unable to supply any information
19 concerning captioned organization.

20 This case will be reopened upon receipt of
21 information that the organization has become active in the
22 New York area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

JUL 2 1966

TELETYPE

10 FBI NEW ORLS

11 4:57 PM OST URGENT 7-3-66 WSW

12 TO DIRECTOR, AND BALTIMORE /157-1008/
13 FROM NEW ORLEANS /157-3290/ /P/

14 DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE /DDJ/ RM.

15 RE BALTIMORE TEL TODAY.

16 SOURCES, BAGALUSA, LA., ADVISED CHARLES SIMS
17 SEEN IN BOGALUSA AT TWO P.M. TODAY. BACKGROUND
18 INFORMATION RE SIMS BEING FORWARDED BALTIMORE

19 AMSD.

20 [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED]

22 [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

26 [REDACTED]

27 [REDACTED]

28 [REDACTED]

b7C

29 NEW ORLEANS SOURCE BELIEVES CORE CONVENTION ONLY
30 REASON FOR THOMAS BEING IN BALTIMORE. SIMS SHOULD BE
31 CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

32 END AND ACK PLS

33 WA JPM

34 FBI WASH DC

35 BA KGW

36 50 JUL 12 1966

37 TU

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-00 BY SP1 SP4/HF

REC-52

157-270-647
12 JUL 6 1966

F B I

Date: 7/5/66

transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (157-1446) (RUC)
SUBJECT: DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RM

Re New Orleans airtel and LHM dated 6-20-66.

Enclosed for Mobile is copy of referenced communication for its information and assistance in this matter.

Mobile is requested to handle the lead set forth in referenced airtel regarding notifying appropriate authorities concerning Alabama Governor GEORGE WALLACE.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 7-23-02 BY SP10613

REC

157-2466-142

3 - Bureau
1 - New Orleans (157-3290) X-104
1 - Mobile (Enc.2)
1 - Birmingham
MME:et

(6)

70 JUL 17 1966

Approved: _____ Sent: _____
Special Agent in Charge

SAC, Chicago

7/8/66

Director, FBI (157-2466)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1 - Shelford

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
RACIAL MATTERS (ORGANIZATION)

ReNOairtel 6/30/66.

NOTE:

The DDJ is an all Negro organization which claims to afford armed protection to civil rights workers where local law enforcement protection is insufficient in the opinion of the DDJ. Disseminated to military agencies, Department, Community Relations Service and Internal Revenue Service at the Bureau.

RLS:dehach

(4)

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP5 sat 14 7-30-66
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-20 4-29 22A-113
DATE OF REVIEW 7-8-66

REG 82

157-2466-143

12 JUL 12 1966

80 JUL 18 1966

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To:

Director

FILE # _____

Attn: *Dennis S*

SAC _____ Title DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND
 ASAC _____ JUSTICE, INC.
 Supv. _____ RACIAL MATTERS

Agent _____

SE _____

IC _____ ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

CC _____ IS UNCLASSIFIED

Steno _____ Date 7-24-80 by SP/ajr

Clerk _____

ACTION DESIRED

- Acknowledge _____
- Assign _____ Reassign _____
- Bring file _____
- Call me _____
- Correct _____
- Deadline _____
- Deadline passed _____
- Delinquent _____
- Discontinue _____
- Expedite _____
- File _____
- For information _____
- Handle _____
- Initial & return _____
- Leads need attention _____
- Return with explanation or notation as to action taken _____
- Open Case _____
- Prepare lead cards _____
- Prepare tickler _____
- Recharge serials _____
- Return assignment card _____
- Return file _____
- Return serials _____
- Search and return _____
- See me _____
- Send Serials _____ to _____
- Submit new charge out _____
- Submit report by _____
- Type _____

Re attached routing slip.

Information furnished [REDACTED] as contained in b7D
LHM dated 6/20/66 was furnished to SA [REDACTED] b7C

See reverse side

SAC *R.S. DeMolay*

Office *Marc A. Bent*

During course of contact SA [REDACTED] attempted *b7C*
to get further details but [REDACTED] furnished only *b7D*
that information contained in LHM of 6/20/66.

ROBERT E. RIGHTMYER
SAC

REG'D.
BRIFFEL DIV.

JUL 1 1966 PH 66

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET4

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(1) with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.
- ____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

- For your information: _____

- The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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CONFIDENTIAL

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ERNEST THOMAS has an office in Chicago,
Illinois, and it is at 1236 Pulaski Street, Chicago, Illinois (S)

b1

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

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b1

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

5*

CONFIDENTIAL

F B I

Date: 6/20/66

3 sent the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code).

11 AIRTEL

12 AIRMAIL
13 (Priority)

14
15
16 TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-2466)
 17 FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-3230)
 18 O DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE
 19 RM
 20 (OO: NO)

21 Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are eight
 22 copies of a LHM captioned as above and suitable
 23 dissemination. Two copies being enclosed for Baltimore.
 24 Copies disseminated to Secret Service and VICG, New Orleans.

- 25 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
 26 2 - Baltimore (Enc. 2)
 27 2 - New Orleans

JEO:med

(7)

EXCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 9-24-2012 BY SP/PLZ

0-7 to NO 428/66 for
 open action by return
 People submit claim for &
 Right of action claim for
 B7C b7d b7e contained in
 b7D the info contained in
 NM/C

REG-59

157-2466-145

JUN 21 1966

50 AGENCY: ACS, DNI, DS, SEC, SEM
 51 DEPT: DOD, CRD, ~~DO~~, COMINT, SEC
 52 DATE FORW: 7/5/66
 53 HOW FORW: RIS
 54 BY: NM/C

313 ICC RTT IXay 24/07, 2009-6

54 JUL 18 1966

55 Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
 56
 57
 58
 59 Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

New Orleans, Louisiana

June 20, 1966

DEACONS OF DEFENSE AND JUSTICE

On June 13, 1966.

advised that the DDJ of Bogalusa is planning to go to Baltimore, Maryland, sometime after the completion of the present Meredith march in Mississippi.

[redacted] stated that no specific date has been set for the trip to Baltimore but added that it is definitely planned. He further stated that the number of Deacons who will participate in this endeavor has not been decided upon at this time.

[redacted] declined to furnish a membership list and indicated he would not do so at any time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

REFERRAL TO SPECIALIST

7-24-80 SP/SP

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